

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6-9, 14-20, 22, 25, 27, 28 and 30 have been amended to remove the words "the step(s) of", which are not needed for grammatical consistency. This change does not narrow the scope of the claims.

The Office has restricted the claims 1-34 of this application into Group I (Claims 1-16), Group II (Claims 17-30), and Group III (Claims 31-34).

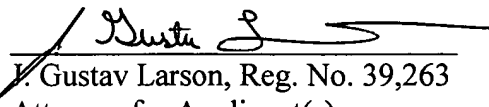
Applicant(s) elect the claims of Group I (Claims 1-16) and provisionally withdraw the non-elected claims of Groups II, and III. The restriction is respectfully traversed in order to preserve the issue for subsequent petition since the examination of all of the claims is not believed to create an undue burden on the Office and that the subject matter among the groups is not independent and distinct as required by statute. Furthermore, different classifications as recited by the Office are not in and of itself adequate grounds for restriction since the Office has historically examined applications containing multiple sets of claims (e.g., method, apparatus system, and computer readable medium claims).

The Applicant(s) further disagree with the characterizations relied on by the Office to support distinctness of the groups.

In summary, Applicant(s) have elected the claims of Group I for further prosecution and provisionally withdrawn the non-elected claims from consideration. Reconsideration and further prosecution on the merits all of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

  
J. Gustav Larson, Reg. No. 39,263  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
TOLER, LARSON & ABEL, L.L.P.  
P.O. Box 29567  
Austin, Texas 78755-9567  
(512) 327-5515 (phone)  
(512) 327-5452 (fax)